AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1-54 (canceled)

55. (currently amended) A disengageable connector for vertically and horizontally interconnecting two individual flooring panels with identical edges to form a permanent or temporary laminate flooring surface on top of a support structure, the connector comprising;

a base having a given width, the base having a projection extending vertically from the base to a first height, the projection having top and bottom portions and consisting of identical right and left halves for insertion into the edges of two panels to be connected, the top portion of each half comprising identical extensions extending horizontally in opposite directions equal distances wherein the combined width of the extensions is less than the width of the base, the extensions include at least one angled portion obliquely sloped in relation to a longitudinal axis of the base, and two protrusions extending vertically from the base to a second height which is substantially smaller than the first height, the protrusions spaced apart from the projection and being located on either side of the projection beyond a lateral extent of the extensions.

56. (previously presented) The connector according to claim 55, wherein the connector is an elongated track.

57. (previously presented) The connector according to claim 55, wherein the projection extends substantially the entire length of the connector.

58. (previously presented) The connector according to claim 55, wherein the protrusions extend substantially the entire length of the connector.

59-62. (cancelled)

63. (previously presented) The connector according to claim 55, wherein the base further includes at least one recess formed between the projection and the two protrusions.

64. (previously presented) The connector according to claim 63, wherein each of the protrusions further includes a tapered surface.

65. (previously presented) The connector according to claim 64, wherein each of the protrusions includes tapered surfaces extending outwardly from a top portion of the protrusion.

66. (previously presented) The connector according to claim 55, wherein each of the protrusions further includes a tapered surface.

67. (previously presented) The connector according to claim 66, wherein each of the protrusions includes tapered surfaces extending outwardly from a top portion of the protrusion.

68. (currently amended) A disengageable connector for interconnecting two individual panels to form a surface on top of a support structure, comprising;

a base having a projection extending vertically from the base to a first height;

the projection having top and bottom portions and including identical right and left halves for insertion into edges of two panels to be connected, the top portion of each of the right and left halves comprising identical extensions extending horizontally in opposite directions; and

two protrusions extending vertically from the base to a second height which is substantially smaller than the first height, the protrusions spaced apart from the projection and being located on opposite sides of the projection, and each of the protrusions further includes a tapered surface.

69. (previously presented) The connector according to claim 68, wherein each of the protrusions includes tapered surfaces extending outwardly from a top portion of the protrusion.

70. (currently amended) A disengageable connector for interconnecting two individual panels to form a surface on top of a support structure, comprising;

a base having a projection extending vertically from the base to a first height;

the projection having top and bottom portions and including identical right and left halves for insertion into edges of two panels to be connected, the top portion of each of the right and left halves comprising identical extensions extending horizontally in opposite directions; and

first and second ~~two~~ protrusions extending vertically from the base to a second height which is substantially smaller than the first height, the first and second protrusions spaced apart from the projection and being located on opposite sides of the projection, wherein the base further includes at least one recess formed between the projection and at least one of the first and second ~~two~~ protrusions.

71. (currently amended) The connector according to claim 70, wherein the base includes first and second recesses respectively formed between the projection and the first and second ~~two~~ protrusions.

72. (previously presented) The connector according to claim 70, wherein each of the protrusions further includes a tapered surface.

73. (previously presented) The connector according to claim 72, wherein each of the protrusions includes tapered surfaces extending outwardly from a top portion of the protrusion.

74. (currently amended) A disengageable connector for interconnecting two individual panels to form a surface on top of a support structure, comprising;

a base having a given width, the base having a projection extending vertically from the base to a first height;

the projection having top and bottom portions and including identical right and left halves for insertion into edges of two panels to be connected, the top portion of each of the right and left halves comprising identical extensions extending horizontally in opposite directions equal distances wherein the combined width of the extensions is less than the width of the base, the extensions include at least one angled portion obliquely sloped in relation to a longitudinal axis of the base; and

two protrusions extending vertically from the base to a second height which is substantially smaller than the first height, the protrusions spaced apart from the projection and being located on opposite sides of the projection beyond a lateral extent of the extensions.

75. (previously presented) The connector according to claim 74, wherein the connector is an elongated track.

76. (previously presented) The connector according to claim 74, wherein the projection extends substantially the entire length of the connector.

77. (previously presented) The connector according to claim 74, wherein the protrusions extend substantially the entire length of the connector.

78. (previously presented) The connector according to claim 74, wherein the base further includes at least one recess formed between the projection and the two protrusions. withdrawn

79. (previously presented) The connector according to claim 78, wherein each of the protrusions further includes a tapered surface. withdrawn

80. (previously presented) The connector according to claim 79, wherein each of the protrusions includes tapered surfaces extending outwardly from a top portion of the protrusion. withdrawn

81. (currently amended) The connector according to claim 74, wherein each of the protrusions further includes a tapered surface which decreases in height as it extends away from a center of the base

82. (previously presented) The connector according to claim 81, wherein each of the protrusions includes tapered surfaces extending outwardly from a top portion of the protrusion.